

Application No. 10/616,728

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 7-14, as amended, are pending herein.

Claim 14 has previously been allowed by the Examiner. Claims 9 and 13 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter. These claims have been amended to independent form in order to place them in condition for immediate allowance.

Claims 1-4, and 10 were rejected under §102(e) as anticipated by the Watanabe et al 6,464,511 ("Watanabe"). Reconsideration of this ground of rejection is courteously requested.

Watanabe discloses a contact unit comprising an insulating housing 31 containing a hole 33, a contact 37 which protrudes from the insulating housing as shown in Fig. 1, a conductive member 38 arranged within the hole, a resilient member 41 which biases the contact outwardly of the housing, and a bottom cover 32 which acts as a retaining member for the conductive member or tube 38. That is, the retaining member includes a step 34a against which the stop portion 38a of the conductive member abuts to retain the tube assembly 36 within the hole of the housing. The bottom of the tube assembly contains a plunger 39 which is fixed relative to the tube by a rivet as set forth at column 4, lines 13-14.

In the claimed invention, contacts 24 are urged out of the open ends of a hole within an insulating member 22 by a resilient member 25. The resilient member is arranged within conductive member 27 which in turn is arranged in the hole in the insulating member. Retaining members 26 are connected with the insulating member and arranged about the open ends of the hole to retain the contacts within the hole in the insulating member. Thus, in the claimed invention, the retaining member is around the open end of the hole from which the contacts protrude to retain the contacts in the hole. In Watanabe, the retaining member 32 is not adjacent to the open end of the hole 33 from which the contact 37 protrudes and does not function to retain the contact within the hole. In Watanabe, the retaining member is on the opposite surface of the housing relative to the protruding contact and retains only the tube assembly 36 within the hole, not the contact. The contact 37 of Watanabe is retained by the upper rim of the tube as shown in Fig. 1. The plunger 39 is also not retained by the retainer. It is fixed to the tube via a rivet.

The arrangement of the retaining member about the open end of the hole was recited in claims 1 and 10. The claims have been amended to more particularly recite this arrangement by providing antecedent basis for the open ends of the hole and to clarify that the contact member

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protrudes therefrom. No new issues have been raised by this amendment and entry thereof is courteously requested.

For all the foregoing reasons, there is no disclosure or teaching in Watanabe of all elements of applicant's presently claimed invention, and Watanabe is therefore not a proper grounds for rejection of parent claims 1 and 10 under §102. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of these claims (and dependent claim 4) under §102 is respectfully requested.

Claims 5 was rejected under §103(a) as obvious over Watanabe in view of Frankeny et al and claims 7, 8, 11, and 12 were rejected under §103(a) as obvious over Watanabe in view of Mitsugi et al. Since claims 2, 3, 5, 7, and 8 depend from claim 1 and claims 11 and 12 depend from claim 10, the rejection of these claims under §103 should be withdrawn.

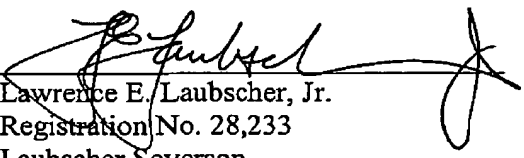
Should the Examiner deem that further amendments to the claims would place them in even better condition for allowance, it is requested that she telephone Applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below.

Corrected formal drawings with proper cross-hatching in Fig. 4 and Prior Art designations for Figs. 14-16 have been provided as requested by the Examiner.

Allowance of claims 1-5 and 7-13 is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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